

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 24 as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selectively deploying one or more sequentially positioned medical appliances from a portable medical device to a target site, the apparatus comprising:

~~a ligation tip having a plurality of sequentially ordered deployable medical appliances in contact with its outside surface;~~

~~the ligation tip having an internal passage;~~

~~a body having a channel, the channel in communication with the internal passage of the ligation tip;~~

~~a string passing through the internal passage and the channel, the string being associated with at least one two of the medical appliances from the plurality of sequentially ordered deployable medical appliances; and~~

~~a means, coupled to the string, for affirmatively verifying that the specific medical appliance, from the plurality of medical appliances, has been deployed~~

a mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance to deploy a first of the medical appliances and for moving the string a predetermined second distance to deploy a second of the medical appliances.

Claims 2-13. (canceled)

14. (Original) An apparatus for selectively deploying one or more sequentially positioned medical appliances from a portable medical device to a target site comprising:

a body containing a variable length string pathway, the pathway having an opening, the length of the pathway alterable through the introduction of a plunger into the pathway,  
the plunger slidably mounted in the body,  
the body adapted to be secured to the medical device,  
the body containing an anchoring point for a string.

15. (Original) The medical apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:

a second plunger slidably mounted in the body and positioned to slide into and elongate the pathway within the body.

16. (Original) The medical apparatus of claim 14 wherein the body is trumpet-valve shaped.

17. (Original) A method for selectively deploying one or more sequentially positioned medical appliances from a portable medical device to a target site comprising:

depressing a plunger of a body coupled to the medical device, the body containing a string threaded through a string pathway, the string secured to the body, the length of the string pathway being altered by the movement of the plunger, the string also in communication with a deployable medical appliance.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
depressing a second plunger located in the body, the second plunger altering the length of the  
string pathway.

19. (Original) A medical apparatus for selectively deploying one or more sequentially positioned medical appliances from a portable medical device to a target site comprising:  
a shaft having a channel, an outside surface, an inside surface, a proximal end, a distal end, and an opening;  
an external handle slidably coupled to the outside surface of the shaft; and  
a stop along the surface of the shaft, the stop adapted to retard the longitudinal movement of the handle along the shaft,  
the external handle connected to a string coupled to a tip having a plurality of deployable medical appliances.

20 (Original) The medical apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:  
a second stop along the surface of the shaft,  
wherein the deployable medical appliances are ligating bands.

21. (Original) The medical apparatus of claim 19, wherein the stop is integrally formed with the shaft.

22. (Original) The medical apparatus of claim 19 wherein the stop is compressible.

23. (Original) A method for selectively deploying one or more sequentially positioned medical appliances from a portable medical device to a target site comprising:

inserting the proximal end of a string into an opening in a hollow shaft, the shaft having an outside surface, an inside surface, a proximal end, and a distal end;

securing the proximal end of the string to an external slidable handle, the handle slidably coupled to the outside surface of the shaft, the distal end of the string in communication with a deployable medical appliance; and

deploying a deployable medical appliance by sliding the handle until it reaches a first stop.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 23, further comprising:

sliding the handle axially along the shaft to reach a second stop.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~a means for affirmatively verifying that the specific medical appliance has been deployed mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance comprises at least one is a~~ plunger slidably mounted in the body so that the length of the channel through which the string passes is alterable.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~a means for affirmatively verifying that the specific medical appliance has been deployed mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance~~

comprises is an external handle slidably coupled to the outside surface of the body and further comprising a stop along the surface of the body, the stop adapted to retard the longitudinal movement of the handle along the body.